1: Guiteras Holmes, Calixta. Clanes y Sistema de Parentesco de Cancuc (México) [Clans and Kinship System of Cancuc (Mexico)]. Acta Americana, Vol. 5, pp. 1-17. México, D. F. and Los Angeles: Inter-American Society of Anthropology and Geography, 1947.

Yale: C51 8 5. [HRAF MS: pp. 1-19.]

Translated from the Spanish for the Human Relations Area Files by Mary Louise Bravo.

[This study of the kin groups (clan) and the kinship terminology of the Tzeltal in the town of Cancuc, Chiapas, Mexico, is based on the author's two season's fieldwork during May-June in 1945 and June in 1946. In this short article information concerning the structure of the unilinear kin groups, the relationships of these groups with the community structure, the characteristics of these groups such as names, and the kin terms are clearly presented.]

Field date: 1945 & 1946
Analyst: Cheng-ruey Ma

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1969

2: Redfield, Robert and Alfonso Villa Rojas. Notes on the Ethnography of Tzeltal Communities of Chiapas. Carnegie Institution of Washington, Contributions to American Anthropology and History, Vol. 5, pp. 105-119. Washington, D. C., 1939.

Yale: C52.08 5.

[This is an ethnographical account of Tzeltal communities dealing specifically with community structure, political organization, economics, and religious festivals. The source was written on the basis of Villa Rojas's 34-day fieldwork in 1938 and further supplemented by both authors' later literature research and analysis. An agricultural calendar is also recorded.]

Field date: February & March, 1938
Analyst: Cheng-ruey Ma

Evaluation: Ethnologists-4, 5
Processed in 1969

3: Nash, June Caprice. Death as a Way of Life: The Increasing Resort to Homicide in a Maya Indian Community. American Anthropologist, Vol. 69, pp. 455-470. Washington, D.C.: American Anthropological Association, 1967.

HRAF copy.

/In this article the author studied and analyzed 37 homicides between 1938 and 1965 in the town of Teklum a fictitious name given to the Tzeltal community where she did field research during her two seasons actual residence in 1964 and 1965. The cases are analyzed on the basis of their various components: according to whom is killed, the context, the agency, and the motivation of the killer in those cases in which the acts of homicide differ in social significance. The increasing homicide rate reflects the change of social control systems in the community--the conflicts arising from competition in new economic enterprises, the rising suspicion of curers' abuse of their supernatural power, and the loss of belief in the guardianship of the spiritual ancestors./

Field date: 1964 and 1965
Analyst: Cheng-ruey Ma

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1969-1970

4: Villa Rojas, Alfonso. The Tzeltal. In, Robert Wauchope, general editor, Handbook of Middle American Indians, Vol. 7, pp. 195-225. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1969.

3 tables; 7 text figures

Yale: CF 1434 H35 7. DLC card no.: 64-10316.

[Additional bibliography included as pp. [225(D)] - [225(G)].]

[This article, written by a professional anthropologist with fieldwork experience among the Tzeltal, is concerned with the people, their culture and society. Data to be found in this source pertain in brief to the Tzeltal environmental setting, culture history, technology, food, social structure, political organization, life cycle, religion, etc. The author also mentions the socio-cultural changes in Tzeltal society and regional differences between Tzeltal communities in terms of their culture. Although this account is based primarily on the author's fieldwork, it is further supplemented by additional library research.]

Field Date: 1938-1944
Analyst: Cheng-ruey Ma

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4, 5
Processed in 1969

5: Blom, Frans and Oliver LaFarge. Tribes and temples: a record of the expedition to Middle America conducted by the Tulane University of Louisiana in 1925. Tulane University, Middle American Research Series, Publication no. 1, vol. 2. New Orleans, 1927.

4, 239-536, [16] p.

Yale: C68.08 1.2

[Only pp. 239-258, 325-400, 465-478, 485, 503-504, 523-536, and one map, which refer to the Tzeltal, have been processed.]

[This book is a generalized description of an expedition through the Chiapas highlands undertaken by an archeologist and an ethnologist. There are detailed descriptions and pictures of ceramics, textiles, clothing, basketry, buildings, and other items of material culture. Descriptions of settlements, land use, political institutions and religion are sketchy.]

Field date: 1925
Analyst: Sigrid Khera, marker
John Beierle, checker

Evaluation: Archeologist, Ethnologist—5
Processed in 1970-1971

NV9 Tzeltal

6: Metzger, Duane. Interpretations of drinking performances in Aguacatenango. University of Chicago Library, Department of Photoduplication, Microfilm Thesis no. T10465. Chicago, 1964.

4, 187 l.; 14 tables; bibliography.

HRAF copy.

[In this doctoral dissertation in anthropology, the author distinguishes between ceremonial and individual drinking among the Indians of Aguacatenango. The former occurs at every public and household ceremonial. During ceremonial drinking, at which only adult males participate, the status of each individual is given proper consideration. Though every adult male of the community is supposed to participate at ceremonial drinking parties, successful attempts to gain acceptable dispensation from drinking are not infrequent. Aggressive behavior of drunken persons is not condemned. The author presents numerous native verbal texts for the interpretation of drinking behavior. The study also discusses kin terminology in detail.]

Field date: no date
Analysts: Sigrid Khera, marker
John Beierle, checker

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1970-71

7: Nash, June. In the eyes of the ancestors: belief and behavior in a Maya community. New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1970.

24, 368 p.; 10 plates; 1 map; 8 text figures.

HRAF copy. DLC card No.: 70-81425.

/This book describes and analyzes socio-cultural changes in the Tzeltal community of Amatenango del Valle (Tzo' ontahal). It discusses mainly changes in the economy, relationships to the Mexican government and the surrounding Ladino population, political leadership and religion. In the traditional economy which was based upon agriculture and ceramics manufacture, entrepreneurship was in the hands of Ladinos. Villagers are beginning to break this pattern of Ladino entrepreneurship through their own co-operatives (trucking co-op and co-op store). Individual entrepreneurship of community members would meet strong resistance in this society where accumulation of wealth is not tolerated. Political leadership, which so far has rested on the principle of age grading, has in some cases been given to young persons on grounds of their ability to write and speak Spanish. Literacy is increasing among the young people due to a now well established school education. Literacy enables the Indians to learn more about their rights as Mexican citizens, of which they make use when controversies with Ladinos arise. The hiring of lawyers in extracommunity law suits has become common practice.

7: Nash

The belief in the overall importance of the ancestors for the well-being of the community has given way to strong skepticism. As a result certain ceremonies have been dropped, and the healing practitioners are no longer considered as benevolent religious agents but are through-out suspected of witchcraft. Accusations of witchcraft not only against healers but against cultural deviants also have increased over the past years. The killing of persons accused of witchcraft is tolerated by the community. Numerous typographical errors detract from the general scholarly quality of this work./

Field dates: 1957, 1958, 1965, 1966, 1967
(18 months total)

Analysts: Sigrid Khera, marker
John Beierle, checker

Evaluation: Ethnographer-5

Processed in 1970-1971

8: Hunt, Muriel Eva Verbitsky. The dynamics of the domestic group in two Tzeltal villages: A contrastive comparison. Chicago, University, Library, Department of Photoduplication, Micro-film Thesis No. 9048. Chicago, 1962.

7, 223 l.; 17 illus.; 16 tables.

HRAF copy.

[This study is a doctoral thesis submitted to the Department of Anthropology of the University of Chicago. It is based upon the author's intensive field work in the two Tzeltal communities of Aguacatenango and Amatenango, and upon analysis of several other recent primary sources on this ethnic group. Differences in the social grouping of the two communities, especially as far as the household is concerned, are to a high degree due to the different roles of women as contributors to the income. In Aguacatenango the economy is based solely upon agriculture, which is a purely male activity. In this village viri-patrilocal residence is a predominant feature. In Amatenango, ceramic manufacture, which is purely a female activity, is the main source of income. Here the incidences of uxori-matrilocal residence are by far higher than in Aguacatenango.]

Field date: 1958
Analysts: Sigrid Khera, marker
John Beierle, checker

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4, 5
Processed in 1970-1971

9: Nash, June C. The change of officials in Tzo?ontahal, Chiapas, Mexico: an analysis of behavior as a key to structure and process. Tulane University, Middle American Research Institute, Publication 24, pp. 209-248. New Orleans.

3 appendices; bibliography.

HRAF copy.

[This source presents a structural-functional analysis of Tzeltal behavior based on the rituals of the inauguration of civil and religious officials in the community of Tzo?ontahal, Chiapas, Mexico. Much of the data presented in this work was gathered by the author by intensive questioning of native informants using both the informal, unstructured technique of interviewing and that of formal analysis employing the method developed by Metzger and Williams. This was further supplemented by the author's own observations of the inauguration ceremonies. The first section of the source is concerned with the cognitive frame of reference in terms of roles and relationships in the civil and religious hierarchies. Section 2 deals with the actual behavior or civil and religious officials during the inauguration ceremonies in which these role structures are both exemplified and modified. In section 3, divergences between data elicited from informants and that obrained by the author's observations

9: Nash

are analyzed in terms of their significance for social change (see appendices 1 and 2). The author notes that here she has fed into this particular model data obtained from the informal analysis of informants using the procedure previously mentioned. The final section 4, along with the following 3 appendices, summarizes the behavioral data in terms of structural-functional explanations and their implications for social change.]

Field Date: 1964
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5.
Processed in 1971-1974